

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: an amino acid sequence substantially
5 identical to SEQ ID NO:2, an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:4, an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:6, an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:8, an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:10,
10 an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:12, and an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:14.
2. The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:2.
- 15 3. The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:4.
4. The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:6.
5. The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said amino
20 acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:8.
6. The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:10.
7. The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:12.

8. The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:14.

9. An isolated polynucleotide, wherein said polynucleotide is selected from the group consisting of:

- 5 a) SEQ ID NO:1;
- b) SEQ ID NO:3;
- c) SEQ ID NO:5;
- d) SEQ ID NO:7;
- e) SEQ ID NO:9;
- 10 f) SEQ ID NO:11;
- g) SEQ ID NO:13;
- h) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:1;
- i) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:3;
- j) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:5;
- 15 k) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:7;
- l) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:9;
- m) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:11;
- n) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:13;
- o) a polynucleotide having a nucleic acid sequence
- 20 complementary to a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), i), j), k), l), m), or n); and
- p) a nucleic acid fragment of a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), i), j), k), l), m), n), or o) that is at least
- 25 15 nucleotides in length and that hybridizes under stringent conditions to genomic DNA encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, or SEQ ID NO:14.

10. An isolated polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:2, an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:4,

an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:6, an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:8, an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:10, an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:12, and an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:14.

11. The polypeptide of claim 10, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:2.

12. The polypeptide of claim 10, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:4.

13. The polypeptide of claim 10, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:6.

14. The polypeptide of claim 10, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:8.

15. The polypeptide of claim 10, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:10.

16. The polypeptide of claim 10, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:12.

17. The polypeptide of claim 10, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:14.

18. A transgenic plant containing a nucleic acid construct comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

a) SEQ ID NO:1;

b) SEQ ID NO:3;

c) SEQ ID NO:5;
 d) SEQ ID NO:7;
 e) SEQ ID NO:9;
 f) SEQ ID NO:11;
 5 g) SEQ ID NO:13;
 h) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:1;
 i) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:3;
 j) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:5;
 k) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:7;
 10 l) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:9;
 m) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:11;
 n) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:13;
 o) a polynucleotide having a nucleic acid sequence
 complementary to a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), i), j), k),
 15 l), m), or n); and
 p) a nucleic acid fragment of a), b), c), d), e),
 f), g), h), i), j), k), l), m), n), or o) that is at least
 15 nucleotides in length and that hybridizes under stringent
 conditions to genomic DNA encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID
 20 NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10,
 SEQ ID NO:12, or SEQ ID NO:14.

19. The plant of claim 18, wherein said construct further comprises a regulatory element operably linked to said polynucleotide.

25 20. The plant of claim 19, wherein said regulatory element is a tissue-specific promoter.

21. The plant of claim 20, wherein said regulatory element is an epidermal cell-specific promoter.

22. The plant of claim 20, wherein said regulatory element is a seed-specific promoter that is operably linked in sense orientation to said polynucleotide.

23. The plant of claim 22, wherein said plant has altered levels of very long chain fatty acids in seeds compared to the levels in a plant lacking said nucleic acid construct.

24. A transgenic plant containing a nucleic acid construct comprising a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of: an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:2, an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:4, an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:6, an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:8, an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:10, an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:12, and an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:14.

25. The plant of claim 24, wherein said construct further comprises a regulatory element operably linked to said polynucleotide.

26. The plant of claim 25, wherein said regulatory element is a tissue-specific promoter.

27. The plant of claim 26, wherein said regulatory element is an epidermal cell-specific promoter.

28. The plant of claim 26, wherein said regulatory element is a seed-specific promoter that is operably linked in sense orientation to said polynucleotide.

29. The plant of claim 28, wherein said plant has altered levels of very long chain fatty acids in seeds compared to the levels in a plant lacking said nucleic acid construct.

30. A method of altering the levels of very long chain fatty acids in a plant, comprising the steps of:

10 A) creating a nucleic acid construct, said construct comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

a) SEQ ID NO:1;

b) SEQ ID NO:3;

15 c) SEQ ID NO:5;

d) SEQ ID NO:7;

e) SEQ ID NO:9;

f) SEQ ID NO:11;

g) SEQ ID NO:13;

20 h) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:1;

i) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:3;

j) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:5;

k) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:7;

l) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:9;

25 m) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:11;

n) an RNA analog of SEQ ID NO:13;

o) a polynucleotide having a nucleic acid sequence complementary to a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), i), j), k), l), m), or n); and

30 p) a nucleic acid fragment of a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), i), j), k), l), m), n), or o) that is at least

15 nucleotides in length and that hybridizes under stringent conditions to genomic DNA encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, or SEQ ID NO:14; and

- 5 B) introducing said construct into said plant, wherein said polynucleotide is effective for altering the levels of very long chain fatty acids in said plant.